

Commissioner's Office

103 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

Telephone: (802) 241-2648; TTY: (802) 241-3557

Fax: (802) 241-4224

MEMORANDUM**To:** Community Providers and Business Managers**From:** Theresa Wood, Deputy Commissioner, DAIL**Date:** December 18, 2007**Subject:** SSI Increase

Effective January 1, 2008, SSI benefits will increase by \$14.00 per month to reflect increases in the cost of living (COLA). In the past, the recommendation for allocating the monthly SSI payment between Room and Board and Personal Needs has been different among the various programs for which the Division of Disabilities and Aging Services provides oversight.

For many years, the cost of living increase for SSI recipients who live in residential care homes has gone exclusively to the residential care homes for room and board. While we recognize the importance of residential care, we must also address the extremely low personal needs allowance for recipients. We are, therefore, indicating that the \$14 increase be split between room and board and personal needs this year, with \$10 going towards an increase of the personal needs allowance and \$4.00 going towards an increase for room and board.

Traditionally, the Personal Needs Allowance recommendation for individuals in developmental and mental health services was the highest, followed by the Personal Needs Allowance for individuals served through the TBI waiver. Individuals receiving ACCS services were at the lowest rate. As stated in the memo of 2006, the goal of DAIL/DDAS is to have a more equitable Personal Needs Allowance for all individuals. Therefore, for ACCS and ERC residents, the increase will be split as noted above, and for TBI waiver participants, the increase in SSI will go in full to the personal needs allowance. The increase for DD waiver participants will go to room and board.

The attached chart reflects the Personal Needs Allowance by category of service. If you have questions, call Nancy Marinelli at 802-241-4431.

/s

CC: Public Guardians, DDAS Leadership Team, Vicki Wetmore, Veda Lyon, Nancy Marinelli, Jim Euber; Joanne Herring, Chris Dupuis, Erin Weaver, Joan Senecal